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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Emphasis on Education

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1. We had managed a conference of one and one-half hours with Vice President V B Vovchenko, of Moscow University, largest and focal point of the 33 universities in the USSR.
2. We were received by him 6 Apr 54 in his spacious offices high in the recently completed main building of the University, which is in process of being moved from the center of the city to more roomy quarters at the edge of town.
3. The school now has a student body of 18,200 and a faculty of 2,500, but the new quarters are designed to accommodate 27,000 students which they expect to have within the coming 10 years.
4. While education is often linked with indoctrination, the emphasis given education by the government is shown by the high salaries paid top educators and scientists.
5. The president of the university draws several stipends. As a member of the Academy of Science, all the 150 members draw a monthly subsidy of 5,000 rubles. He also gets the president's salary of 6,000 rubles monthly, and a similar amount as a professor, making a total of 17,000 rubles monthly. For comparison, the director of the Stalin Works, their largest factory, is paid 8,000 rubles per month.
6. Monthly pay scales for other faculty members are: professor, 6,000 rubles; magistrates, 3,200; candidates for the sciences, 1,720; and beginners, 1,050.
7. Fifty-one per cent of the students are women. The curriculum covers five years and the students enter the university with training equivalent to the junior year in US high schools. Ninety-seven per cent are on scholarships, which means they draw monthly sustenance allowances from 290 rubles for a first year student to 450 for a senior. All excellent grades will increase the allowance by 25 per cent.
8. Students live in dormitories and are charged 15 rubles monthly for rooms. They have well equipped single rooms with a shower and bath for each two rooms.

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9. On finishing school, they are "assigned" to jobs by the labor ministry.
10. I visited the living quarters of the graduate school where I found four of them playing chess. Two of them spoke excellent English and graciously showed me their rooms and answered questions eagerly. These students were from distant parts of the USSR.
11. The vice president told proudly of the athletic plans at the new school. He was an ardent football fan and said that on this new field they expected to play against teams from many countries, including the UK and France. He did not include the US.

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